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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Construction of Minesweepers at the
Stralsund Volkswerft

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SOURCE

1. On 25 January 1953, the KS 2001 of the east coast protection vessels KS 2001 through 2006 which were under construction for the East German Sea Police at the Volkswerft (Nationalized Shipyard) Stralsund, at a preliminary shakedown run failed to attain the designed speed of 17 knots. Her speed with the wind was 15.8 knots and, against the wind was 15.1 knots. On 30 January 1953, her construction was ready. The acceptance trial was scheduled for 5 February 1953. On 8 December 1952 the KS 2002 returned to the Volkswerft from Wolgast for completion.¹ The KS 2003 was on Assembly Line No 3. The completion of construction which had been scheduled for 20 December 1952, could not be realized because of shortage of material. The KS 2004 and 2006 lay on Assembly Line No 1, and the KS 2005 on Assembly Line No 3. The engines for the KS 2004 and 2006 were ready for installation on 10 and 12 January 1953.
2. The east coast protection vessels series KS 2001 through 2006 were referred to at the Volkswerft as improved M 43 type minesweepers. They were 58.8 meters long, had a beam of 8 meters and were drawing 2.2 meters. Their radius of action was 1,800 nautical miles at 17 knots. They were powered by two KVD/43/6/AD-type 1,400-hp engines. They had a crew of 78 men. Their armament included one 37-mm twin-barreled AA gun on the foredeck, one 20-mm four-barreled AA gun each to port and starboard of the bridge, one 37-mm twin-barreled AA gun on the aft deck, one 20-mm twin-barreled AA gun on the stern, and two depth-charge throwers and 20 depth charges which were placed on the afterdeck. Two mine spurs were to be installed aft to handle moored mines with a diameter of 1,220 mm with fuses, and 1,120 mm without fuses. The KS ships of this series were designed to carry 30 mines. According to the original German plan they had an armament of 75-mm guns and a slightly greater displacement. These plans had to be modified, however, on orders of the Soviets.
3. The KS ships were to receive as mine sweeping equipment: Two hydrophone buoys with substitute buoys, 4 paravanes, 4 floating bodies, 2 carrying bodies, 6 kite sweeps, 2 depth-setting (TSG) paravanes, and 2 L-shaped kites, (Giebeldrachen). The KS 2001 carried a searchlight with the inscription RFT 4020 E.R. Type 100.35 (D), Nr. 527273, 300 - 1,000 w 250 v on the platform of her mast.

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4. A total of 11 KS ships were scheduled to be built by the Stralsund Volkswerft in 1953 and another 10 such vessels in 1954.

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